

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.312, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Upon review of the Examiner's Amendment attached to the Notice of Allowance mailed March 9, 2004, Applicants believe further changes to claim 14 are necessary. To provide a clean copy of the claims, claims 14 and 15 have been replaced by new claims 17 and 18.

New claim 18 is substantially the same as claim 14 submitted in the amendment filed January 30, 2004, and modified by the aforementioned Examiner's Amendment except for the following additions. Substituents Ar₁, Ar₂ and Ar₃ in Formulas (II) and (III) are composed of aryl or substituted aryl radicals. As disclosed in paragraph [0029] of the specification and on pages 5-7 of the corresponding PCT Application (PCT/FR99/03232), the substituents on the aryl radicals Ar₁ and Ar₂ are selected from: alkyl or alkoxy radicals of 1 to 4 carbon atoms; halogen atoms; OH; the hydrophilic groups -COOM, -SO₃M or -PO₃M where M is an organic or inorganic cationic residue selected from H, alkali metals, alkaline earth metals, ammonium cations of the formula N(R)₄⁺, and metal cations whose arylcarboxylic acid, arylsulfonic acid or arylphosphonic acid salts are water-soluble.

Another possible substituent was incorrectly identified as -N(R)₄. This obviously should be -N(R)₂ since an amino substituent attached to an aryl radical can only be -N(R)₂ and not -N(R)₄. This conclusion is consistent with the description of the compounds of formula (I) where the aryl radicals Ar₁, Ar₂ and Ar₃ may be

substituted by radicals Y_1 , Y_2 and Y_3 respectively. The radicals Y may be substituted by amino groups NR_1R_2 .

New claim 18 is identical to claim 15 submitted in the amendment filed January 30, 2004, as modified by the changes in the Examiner's Amendment.

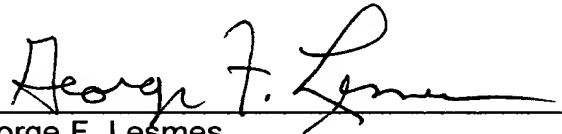
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Entry of Amendment is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 838-6683 at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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